

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph of the Specification starting at page 11, line 10 as shown below:

—Suitable intermediate network device platforms for use with the present invention include the commercially available Catalyst 5000 and 6000 series of switches from Cisco Systems, Inc. of San Jose, California, along with the intermediate network device disclosed in copending and commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 6,735,198, issued May 11, 2004 ~~09/469,062, filed December 21, 1999~~ and titled, *Method and Apparatus for Updating and Synchronizing Forwarding Tables in a Distributed Network Switch* by Thomas J. Edsall et al.—

Please amend the paragraph of the Specification starting at page, 12, line 13 as shown below:

—Fig. 3 is a highly schematic block diagram of the pattern matching engine 260 of switch 200 (S1) of Fig. 2. The pattern matching engine 260 preferably includes a decoder circuit 302 for decoding and executing message-related instructions, and a regular expression storage device 324 having a content-addressable memory (CAM) 304 that can be programmed, as described below, to store at least the regular expression patterns used

in searching network messages. The pattern matching engine 260 further includes a message buffer 306 for storing a network message to be evaluated, and a barrel shifter 308 that is connected to the message buffer 306 and operatively controlled by the decoder circuit 302 as illustrated by control arrow 312. The barrel shifter 308 is configured to reveal a selected segment or portion of the message stored in buffer 306 as directed by the decoder circuit 302. Decoder circuit 302 essentially “slides” the barrel shifter 308 along the message buffer 306, as illustrated by double arrow 313, so as to reveal the selected window. The barrel shifter 308 is further coupled to the CAM 304 so as to load the retrieved message portion into a message space 310 of a CAM input 314 that, in turn, is inputted to the CAM 304 as indicated by arrow 316. The CAM input 314 further includes a tag space 318 that is loaded with a tag value as described below by the decoder circuit 302.—